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LETTER DATED 25 OCTOBER 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I transmit herewith a quotation from the official minutes of the talks that took place on 5 October 1991 in Baghdad between Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr. Ekéus, Chairman of the Special Commission. The minutes were drafted in original Arabic and English and represent accurately and fully what the Deputy Prime Minister said to Mr. Ekéus concerning Iraqi research in the scientific and technological fields.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Quotation from the official minutes of the talks that took place in Baghdad on 5 October 1991 between Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr. Ekéus, Chairman of the Special Commission

The Deputy Prime Minister spoke as follows:

"Twenty-three years have elapsed since the commencement of our experience in power, and we know the dangers arising from transforming an Arab State and bringing it to the nuclear-weapon-manufacturing stage. We know that this is not permitted for Arabs.

"Yes, we have had much research done in the area of science and technology, but knowledge is one thing and going beyond knowledge to the stage of weapon-building is another thing. They are accusing Iraq of spending billions of dollars on research and know-how. Following the great rise in oil prices in the mid-1970s, Iraq became a rich State and directed its wealth and its financial surplus to research and the construction of an advanced scientific and technological base that would contribute to the building of our country and raise the standard of living for our people. We did [that] instead of spending our money on buying palaces, yachts and other luxuries, as [President] Bush's friends do. We spent our surplus money on building an industrial base and advanced infrastructures for the future, not on building up a nuclear industry. Accordingly, the construction of this advanced base has borne fruit in the restoration of the bridges, refineries, electric power plants and communications centres destroyed by the aggression."